


An

ESSAY

on

Acute Hepatitis.

By

*John P. Lewis**of Pennsylvania.*

in

Essay

on

Female Epistoles

By

John G. Jones

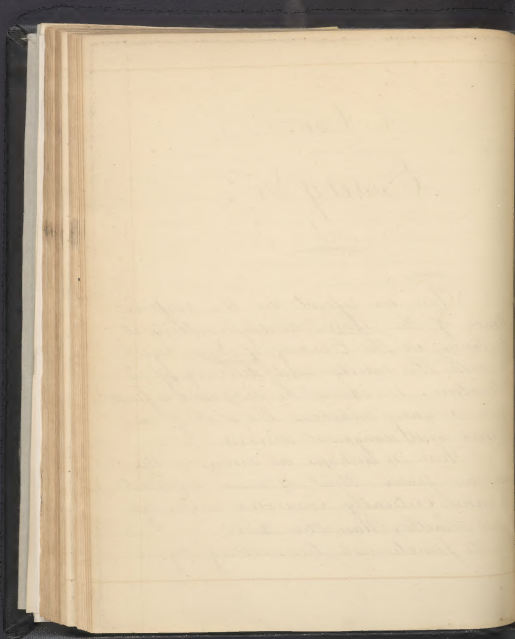
of Pennsylvania

One
Essay &c.

When we reflect on the importance of the Liver, and the functions it performs, in the Economy of Life, together with the variety and delicacy of its Structure, we cannot be surprised to find it on so many occasions the seat of extensive and dangerous diseases.

There is perhaps no viscus in the human frame that is more importantly and critically connected with Life and Health, than the Liver.

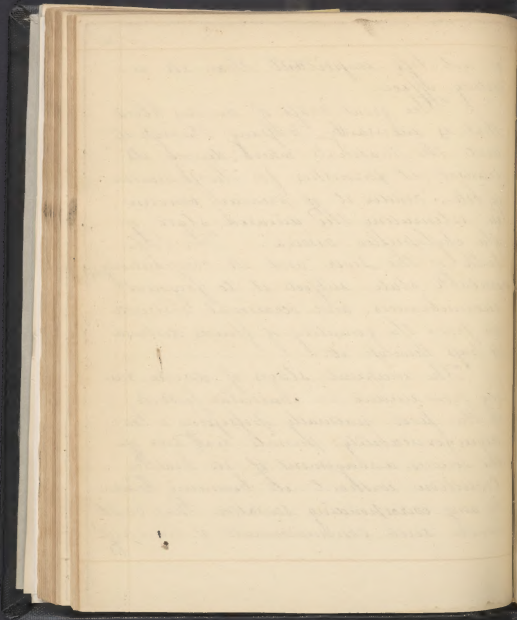
Its function is a transmitting organ



is not less important than its secreting office.

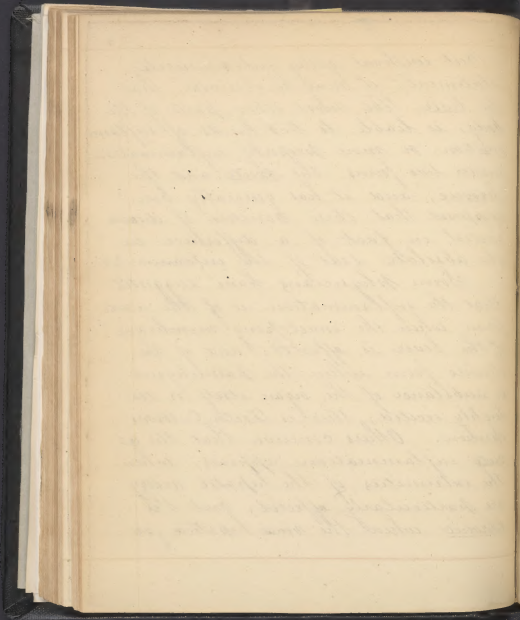
The great mass of venous blood that is incessantly passing through it, and the materials which during its transit it furnishes for the formation of bile, render it of primary concern in estimating the diseased state of the chylific viscera. The large bulk of the Liver, and its comparatively inerritable state subject it to frequent incumbrances, and occasional obstructions from the quantity of fluids destined to pass through it.

"The incipient stages of disease, arising from undue vascular fullness of the Liver, naturally possessing a low degree of excitability, permits real and often serious derangement of its healthy condition without its becoming known by any corresponding sensation that could denote such commencement of mischief."



But without going into minute statement, it may be observed, that the liver, like most other parts of the body, is liable to two kinds of inflammation, or more properly inflammation under two forms, the acute and the chronic; and it has generally been supposed that these varieties of disease consist in fact, of a difference in the absolute seat of the inflammation.

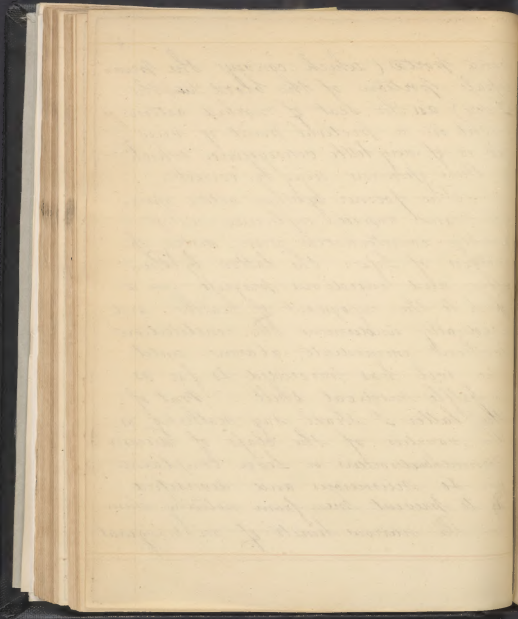
Some physicians have suggested that the inflammation is of the acute form when the enveloping membrane of the liver is affected, and of the chronic form when the parenchyma or substance of the organ itself is too highly excited; this is Doctor Cullen's opinion. Others conceive that the acute inflammation appears, when the extremities of the hepatic artery are particularly affected, and the chronic when the venae hepaticae or



vena porta (which convey the principal portion of the blood through the Liver) are the Seat of morbid actions.

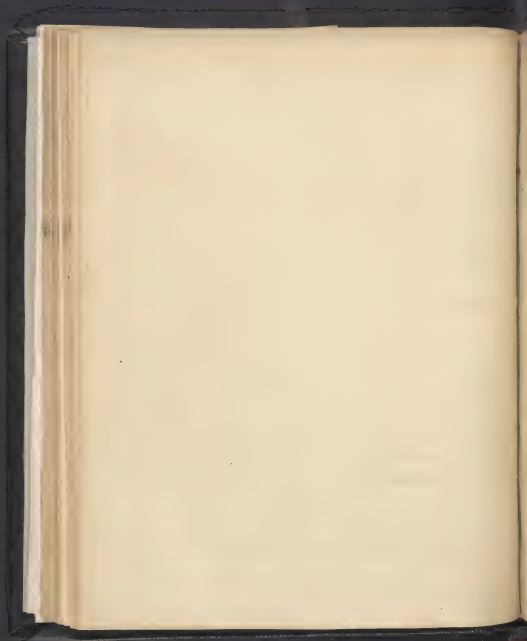
But in a practical point of view it is of very little consequence which of these opinions may be correct.

The former by their active operation and rapid influence, unless quickly counteracted soon destroy the energies of Life: the latter, by their slow and insidious progress, give a check to the enjoyment of health, and gradually undermine the constitution without immediate alarm, until the evil has proceeded so far as to baffle medical skill. But of the latter I shall say nothing as the varieties of the class of Diseases termed Disorders or Liver Complaints are so numerous and diversified as to prevent me from noticing them in the narrow limits of an Inaugural



institutions.
 and the disease. The causes & symptoms
 and remedies adapted to the various
 kinds of hepatitis is treated from
 the disease may observations in this essay,
 shall be extensively examined.

The causes of acute hepatitis
 are all those which produce the
 inflammation, such as the applica-
 tion of cold, violent injuries from
 contusions, blows &c. The disease may
 be also produced by other causes as
 violent exercise, intense fevers, heats,
 long continued intermittent and re-
 current fevers, of various kinds
 and an intemperate use of various
 and spirituous liquors. But more
 particularly the latter and by va-
 rious solid concretion in the sub-
 stance of the liver. In some
 cases and of some cases Dr Ferrius is
 the great work in practice "the ex-



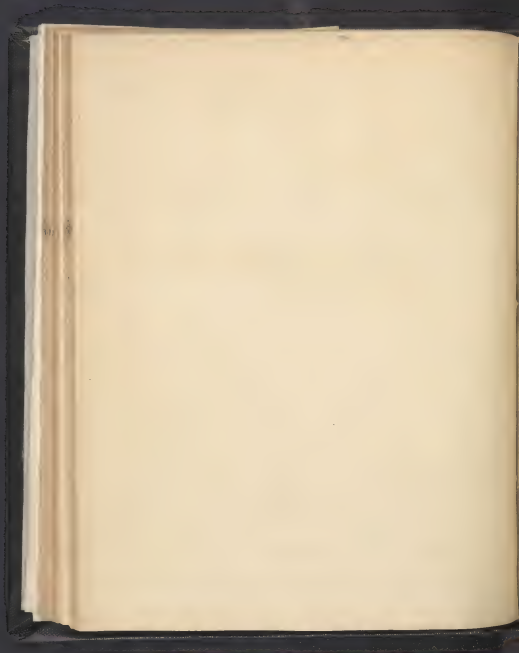
When a case of acute hepatitis will
be found to be in partial application
of cold or wet when the tube is
inserted, is more subject to violent ex-
cesses." and further states, "Some cases
may be caused by disease of the
canal, or a collection of liquid matter
in the substance of the tube, is of
frequent occurrence, and
the work is often favored by a severe
inflammation of the vessels."

The tube indicates that organ
is in such a condition as to
be removed from any other
part of the tube, probably from the
usual secretion of the tube, but
place when the work is done
on the internal part by an ex-
posed to cold or from the tube in-
creasing and not thereby causing
inflammation in the part. An
explanation of the how and how.



diseases consequent thereon or indeed
affections more frequently to be met
with in warm climates than in
cold ones particularly in the East and
West Indies where few Europeans can
remain for any length of time without
being attacked by them. The Fever
and even malarial fevers to be the
seat of disease nearly in the same
proportions that the fevers are in
just Britain. Both malarial and malarial
fevers are frequently met with
in persons who come to Europe from
the East and West Indies and in
those who have been afflicted even
in those climates they are very apt
to recover by the application of means
which would be totally to produce dif-
ferent effects on other individuals.
*Between the fevers of India

* Vide Thomas Practic



and that of China. There is a strong
 dissimilarity in the symptoms. The
 cases which are to be treated by the
 application of the gun are a very small
 one in the latter. That of India pre-
 sents more of inflammatory congestion
 and obstruction. The state of system
 inflammation and it is not in-
 dicated particularly runs on to suppuration.
 There are however in the East a great
 number of cases of hemorrhage and much more
 than lately and from Europe and it
 may be most cases be treated by antiseptic
 means, violent exercise in the form
 of sudden exposure to cold water.
 The body has been in a state of con-
 siderable debility. The hepatic
 system is generally acknowledged to be
 in all similar stages a matter less
 than the hepatic hepatic of the country.
 The hepatic symptoms may be violent.

*What Dr. Lee has written in the same —

The symptoms of the disease are generally a sense of tension & fullness in the right breast, in which is usually, however, at some times dull tenderness, towards the Hina and Scapula. Great depression in the respiration, a sore difficulty of voice except on the affected side. Though instances occur when the patient is unable to lie on either side* never more with a swelling of apparently enormous extent accompanied with hæmorrhage into the joint; just as often as a more common instance. Most are situated in the lower, while few occupy the upper and extension to the axilla, insertion of the arm: Sometimes accompanied with degeneration and abscess of the pectoral gland in the region of the axilla where it is usually from 1/2 to 1 inch in diameter.

*See Doctor Jackson's Cases in the Appendix;

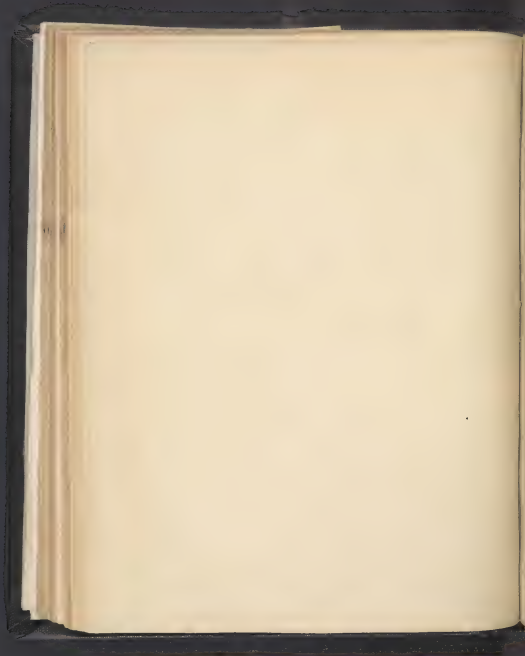


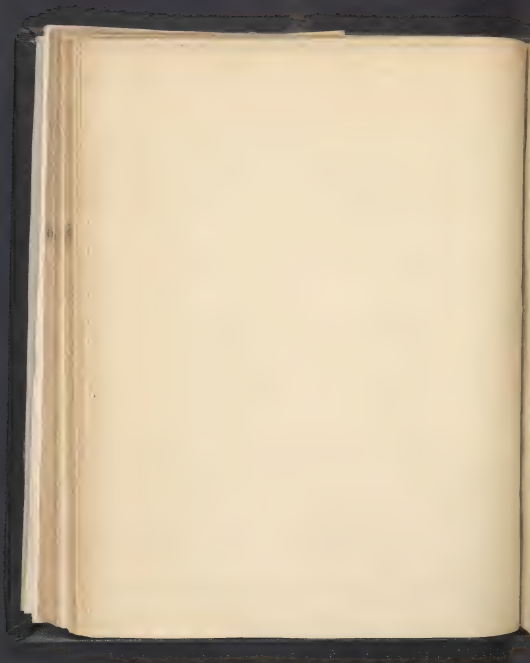
moderate amount of rain and heat
 is enough for the fresh situation.
 The disease is more frequently dry than
 moist. The blood is generally thickened
 though often thin. The urine is
 scanty or small quantities, and is
 of a pink color. After dinner with this
 the pulse strong but with frequent some-
 times vomiting and sometimes
 in a month, and at times only inter-
 vals; it is attended necessarily with
 a profuse perspiration of the skin arising
 from the heat not getting vent into
 the common duct. by reason of the
 pressure of the enlarged liver. In the
 early history of the disease in the
 pneumonia of the liver the nature
 of the inflammation is serous
 produces not pain, it is attended
 with a profuse perspiration of the
 skin. It is attended with a
 the first stage of the disease.

Sometimes secretory organs.

The liver when from a cancerous cell the disease has to be considered as a remarkable appearance, not before it coagulates when the red part adheres to the bottom and the top, and I did not get time to see it appears of a dull green colour. This is owing to the mixture of the yellow cancerous cells with the purple cancerous blood, as yellow and purple form green. The coagulated lymphatic substance of the purple colour, however the body that is not green but yellow.

In every inflammation of the liver it may be observed that the symptoms are more or less acute according to the degree of inflammation in the part affected. If it be seated in the membranous covering of the superior convex surface of the liver, the inflammation is in the diaphragm, the



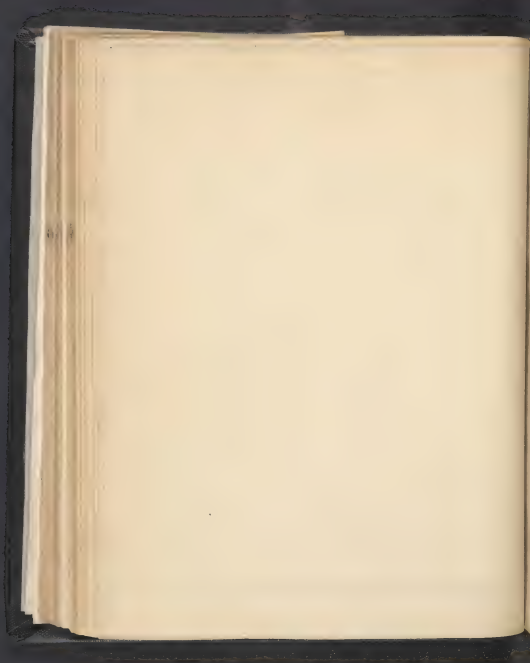


It must not be forgotten that the bile is prepared through its passage into the intestine as often as it is secreted, so that jaundice is no uncommon occurrence in this disease.

In most instances the course of the body is irremediably tedious & the labor is consequence of inflammation produces & is observed, a corresponding hardening of the vessels & of the organs, which are influenced by the general distention & are the symptoms that are peculiar to meniscus inflammation, I have frequently found, exactly similar to those which are the consequence of inflammation, which are the consequence of inflammation.

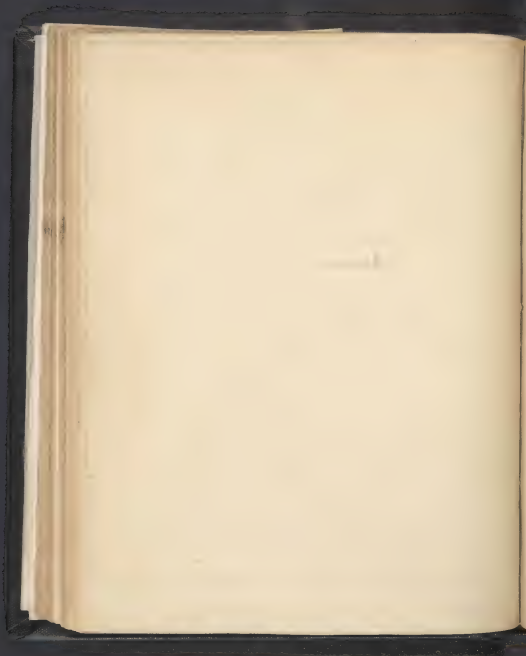
It may readily distinguish the state of the mind by the brain

* Vide Dr. Lister's Lecture



in the former, entrance into the stomach, by the dilatation of the entrance, by the cough there unaccompanied with expectoration, and by the less degree of oppression, the heat and pulse not being increased upon taking any food into the stomach. It differs also to some extent from liquids or medicines are received into it, and from asthma it may be distinguished by the less prostration of strength. The symptoms of hepatic colic are those of pressure of the gut which is the primary and unaccompanied with nausea, the pain being permanent, the gut being much bent and upward in a minute, and the patient always preferring to lie in a straight, upright posture, instead of being in a supine position. The gut itself is distended by the gas which is retained by the long the first part of the bowels.

1. *Tricuspid Valve*

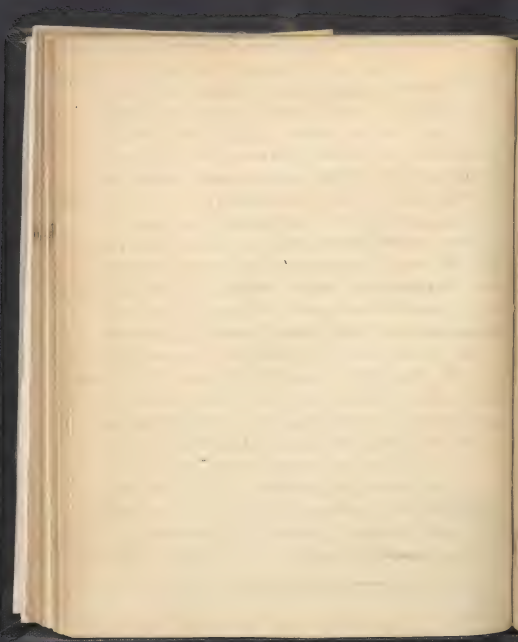


I have now laid down the signs, symptoms, and most general distinctive features, indicating of the disease in question. I shall proceed to take a cursory view of the treatment applicable to this form of the malady.

In describing the treatment of any disease little more than general principles can be communicated: in every case our two great resources, rational & pure, facts, merit, experience and observation, are to be drawn on in the application of remedies.

An exact line of conduct is almost impossible to be founded, suited to each constitution and habit, hence an extensive field is presented for the exercise of discretionary skill by the medical practitioner.

The first indication in the case of acute hepatitis is to subvert inflammatory action and to accomplish this, the usual means of subduing inflammation are to be rigidly enforced.

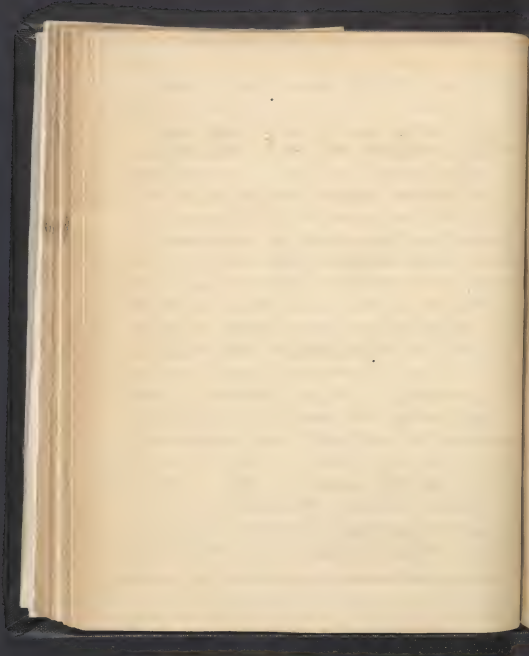


After general and copious bleeding,
 the patient may require another bleed-
 ing to relieve him from the pain in
 the chest. Should the copious bleed-
 ing be repeated, the operation
 should be repeated in the course of a
 few hours, say eight or ten, and to the
 same extent. For some time it is to be
 continued, thinking that gradually, as the
 stage of the disease, the bleeding should
 be discontinued for some time by repeat-
 ing the operation of cupping, or leech-
 cupping is applied to the patient
 twice daily, the substituted. It will
 be proper in bleeding from the arm
 to make a large incision and draw
 twenty or twenty-five ounces of blood
 at once if the phlogistic symptoms run
 high.

Some practitioners disapprove of
 bleeding from the system in this
 disease, but recommend it in the stage



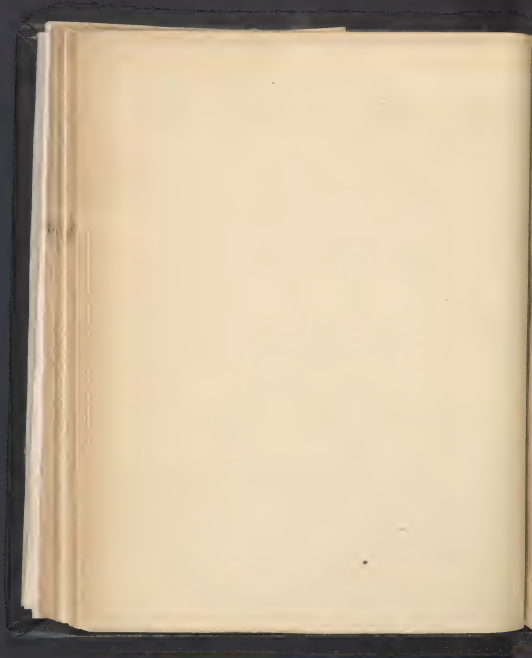
1. I am about to treat the right hand
 of the foot, by means either of leeches
 only scarifications and cupping,
 which may be the preferable thing
 in those cases which are unattended
 with much pain, or pyrexia, or
 when the disease has followed a
 violent intermittent or remittent
 fever, and consequently the patient
 is in a cachectic state: but in those
 instances when the pain is acute
 the pulse full and strong and the
 febrile heat and thirst are considerable,
 cupping and repeated scarification will
 be necessary. It will however be better
 to take away at once a quantity pro-
 portioned to the age and temperament
 of the patient, and the degree and
 extent of the disease, than to abstract
 an equal quantity by repeated and
 small bleedings. And as has been
 before stated blood should be drawn



from no large degree. to suspend
the momentum or increased power
of the circulation. Continued even
and diligent use.

If the symptoms do not arise
in consequence of these means, a
first blister applied over the region
of the liver will be likely to prove in-
evitable. Great pains must be taken
to heal before the second intervention
is obtained because must be had to
a second application. A succession of
blisters will be in preference to keeping
open the first one by any stimulating
instrument.

Particular attention must be
paid to the state of the bowels and
every discharge accurately surveyed as
it will furnish the practitioner with
information of the highest importance
and will convey to him the unerring
intelligence of truth as it regards



"the state of secretion."

In every case of acute hepatitis the whole antiphlogistic plan is to be vigorously pursued, protected as when the fibrous syphlons were large, as to contain yet a termination in suppuration; and though it will be understood that a ^{parietal} strict diet is to be strictly enforced at the commencement, carefully changing animal food in weeks or other time from its strong disposition in this state of the system to induce a putrid decomposition and an appropriate the moderate diet to some of the principal secreted fluids. Food should be assigned by the far use of cooling diet is imprudent with acute. The apartment of the sick should be kept ventilated by the admission of air, and the windows

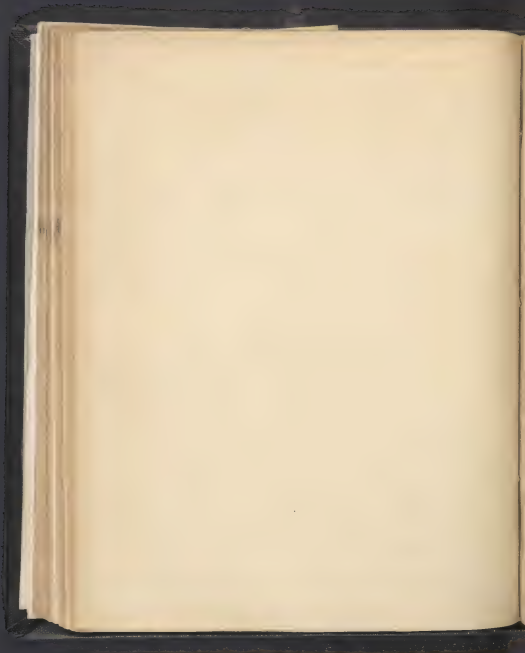
* Note that in the case of liver



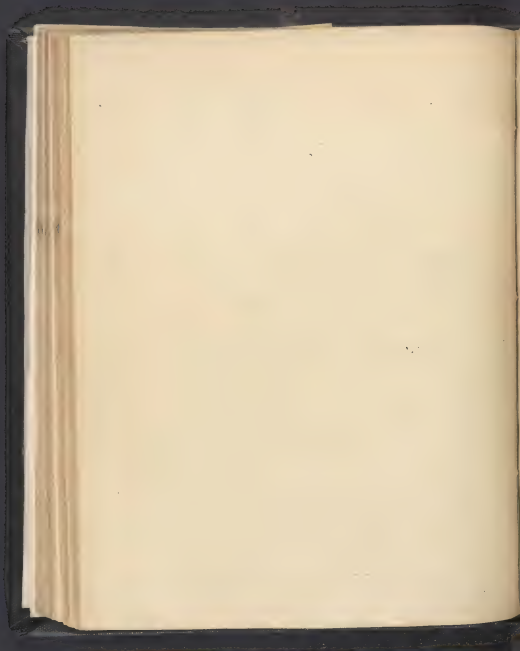
in the first progress, open with gentle purgatives in all stages of the disease. Purgatives serve as violent stimuli with regard to the bowels, thereby stimulating and removing the morbid humors exerted to relieve the general distension of the bowels by emptying it of its accumulated secretions, which is a matter of the utmost consequence, and should never be lost or aided by the practitioner.

As in other cutaneous eruptions, we may excite diaphoresis by means of increasing doses of tartarized potassium to which we may join the extract of belladonna. The practitioner with a plentiful use of mild diuretics and cooling drinks will rise to proper. The administration of the warm bath may be advisable in those cases when the skin is dry and the heat in the regions of the liver and lungs.

See also the notes on the subject.



If after having strictly pursued for four or five days the antiphlogistic course which has been pointed out, the disease be found not to give way, we should then recourse to mercury. Some physicians particularly in the East and west Indies are in the habit of using it from the commencement of the attack, and others again who are unquestionably the most judicious practitioners do not in general use it to effect a mercurial operation until the urgent inflammatory symptoms have been somewhat subdued by an antiphlogistic treatment. In every inflammatory affection of the Throat, and when suppurative structure is present, and more particularly in cold climates where it may be advisable to employ mercury as a purgative at the commencement of the disease, still I am of the opinion that we should not then use it with a view of continuing operation.

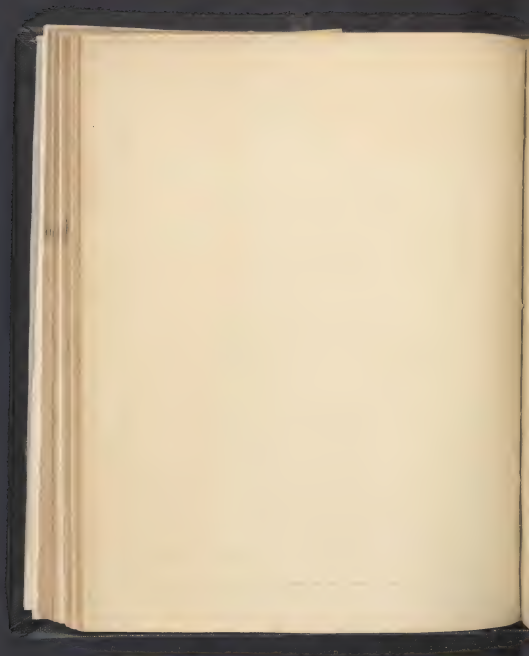


1772 article

The present system is a very imperfect one, but it is improper in the first rank to treat hospitals as if they were other medical institutions, reading rules in an abstract to the necessary plan of operation.

We may begin the new era at the expiration of the fourth or fifth day of the year. The best preparation of introducing it into the system is by practice. A small number of the students (perhaps about a dozen) may be employed in the neighbourhood of the first affected, every night under a slight supervision is visited. It rather until some very efficient effort is produced on the system, by which means we shall in general be able to disguise the results and hardships. It is some advantage must possibly be obtained.

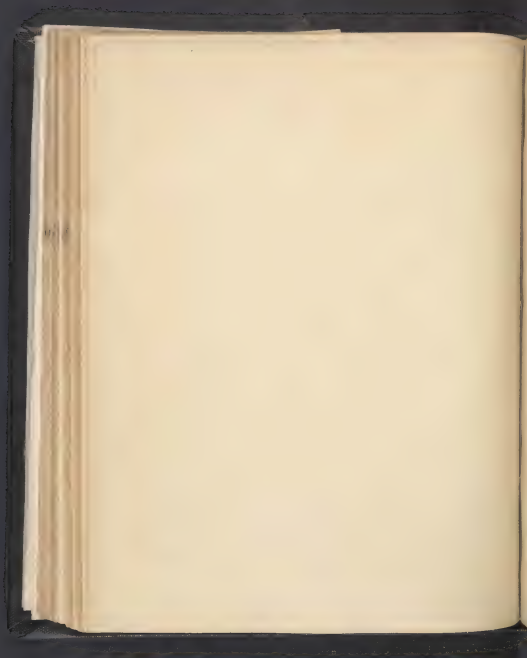
Under the present system, the results are not satisfactory.



For the present it may be ad-
visable to visit the patient on the
night when he is supposed to sleep better
than

If within the morning or the
neighborhood of the point affected is
attended with pain or inconvenience
to the patient, in such case it may be
applied to the groin or inside of the
thighs taking care however not to carry
it much beyond the point touching
in salivation with the view of assisting
the discussion of the inflammation
about the throat. Any other efforts from
the use of leeches, does little good
but as a secretion of mucus continues
in the throat, an arrow may be taken
every third or fourth morning.

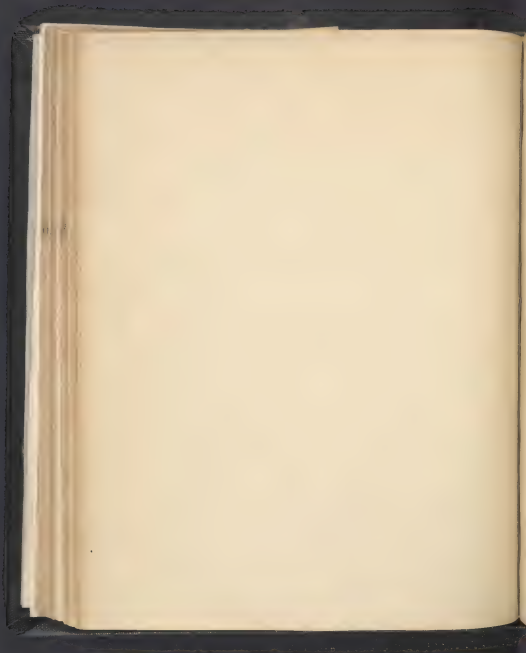
Should the case the treatment
have been deferred to any other
season, certainly as late as possible
and to make it effect the cure certain



we may find a new talent in the
 to be done with it a hundred times
 it will be found in the same
 it is necessary not to let the
 as well as the other. The
 year's trial - think of the
 only - almost the same as the
 as it is not so hard to produce
 and there is no reason why. The
 talent is not lost in the ^{fall} of
 when it has been in the
 country. The talent is not
 but it has been in the
 and it is not lost in the
 to the talent.

1. The talent is not a
 one of the most useful
 and if not it is not to be
 and it is not to be.

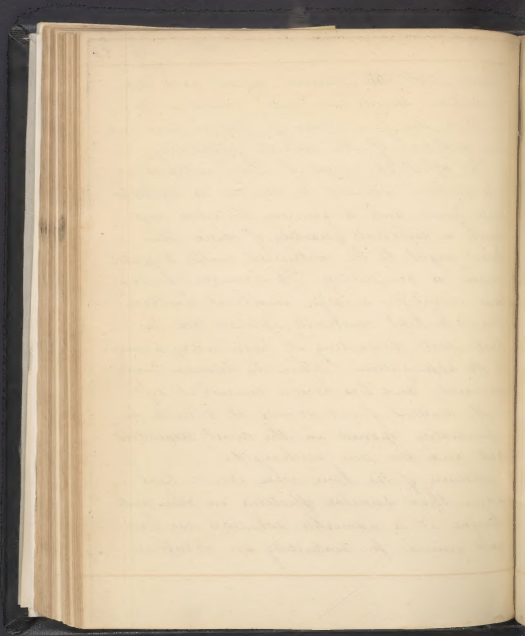
The talent is not a
 one of the most useful
 and it is not to be.



have not the desired effect, and suppuration ensues we must endeavour to promote the formation of proper pus and the discharge of the abscess externally.

To effect the first of these intentions the patient should be directed to use tonic medicines and a generous nutritive diet with a moderate quantity of wine. This plan ought to be continued until suppuration is completed. To promote the second intention a large emollient poultice should be kept constantly applied over the part well fomenting it twice a day previous to its application. When the tumour points outwardly, and has become somewhat soft with evident fluctuation, it should be immediately opened in the most dependent part, and the pus discharged.

Abscesses of the Liver when opened heal sooner than similar affections in other parts therefore it is advisable whenever we have good grounds for suspecting an abscess in



the liver whether it be on the convex side
 or not, to make an opening in it and
 evacuate its contents in preference to
 suffering it to break internally by which its
 contents must be evacuated into the
 abdomen to the almost certain destruction
 of the patient.

200
1000